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V E N E Z U E L A

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FOREIGN MINISTER ON TALKS WITH COLOMBIA

PA252317 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 24 Oct 84

[Report by Luis Alfredo Gomez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Isidro Morales Paul has denied a report according to which Venezuela and Colombia already have a plan or program for resuming bilateral negotiations for the delimitation of the marine areas in the Golfo de Venezuela. Foreign Minister Morales Paul was asked about this report at the Miraflores Palace.

[Begin recording] [Morales Paul] The report published by the press refers to an interrogation to which the Colombian Congress will subject the Colombian foreign minister on a variety of subjects, including the future of negotiations with Venezuela. It does not refer to any existing agreement but to the possibility that this might happen.

[Reporter] Will this happen?

[Morales Paul] Probably, but it is up to the heads of state to determine the timeliness and suitability.

[Reporter] After the draft agreement of Caraballeda in 1980 there was talk about freezing the talks. Has this changed?

[Morales Paul] There is no freeze, really. There is a problem which the two countries will review in due time [word indistinct].

[Reporter] When does Venezuela feel the time will be suitable?

[Morales Paul] That decision will have to be made by the chiefs of state.

[Reporter] Regarding Central America, do you think the United States has exerted a negative influence toward the signing of the [Contadora] document?

[Morales Paul] I would not dare qualify its participation. I have said merely that the U.S. presence is a political fact we cannot ignore, but neither is it directly involved in the issue, and they [Central Americans] themselves must resolve their problems.

[Reporter] But has the United States exerted its influence on the acceptance of the document?

[Morales Paul] Superpowers have an influence over all political developments throughout the world. [end recording]

BRIEFS

OIL DISCOVERY -- Caracas, 15 Oct 84 (OPECNA) -- CORPOVEN [expansion unknown], a subsidiary of Petroven, has officially confirmed that it discovered light crude oil in Paez District, Apure State. A CORPOVEN spokesman said that the third well drilled in the region, Victoria IX, resulted in the discovery of a high quality light crude of 35 API degrees. [Excerpt] [Vienna OPECNA in Spanish 0600 GMT 16 Oct 84 PA]